and 4406 persons in J&K have been trained on basic computer concepts through CICs.

Penalty on telecom operators

1824. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are all set to impose a penalty of Rs. 400 crore on seven telecom operators for not fulfilling the roll-out obligations as per their licence conditions as the operators are required to cover 10 per cent of total number of districts in an area of operations within one year from the effective date of licence and they should ensure that at least 90 per cent of these districts, including inside buildings is given coverage; and

(b) if so, whether none of these companies have submitted the required certificate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) As on date, 29 companies are holding 159 licences to provide Telecom Access Services in the 23 service areas in the country. These Licensees are required to fulfill roll-out obligations according to their respective licence agreements. For any delay in fulfillment of these obligations, as per the licence agreement, there is provision for imposing Liquidated Damages (LD).

Regarding fulfillment of the roll-out obligations the licensees are required to submit certificates issued by Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC). The compliance of licence conditions, including roll-out obligations, are reviewed from time to time.

So far LD has been imposed on more than 40 licensees for non-fulfillment of roll-out obligations.

STD calls at local rates

1825 SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that STD calls between Delhi-Mumbai are being charged at local rates;

(b) if so, whether Government are also considering local rate calls for STD between Delhi-Kolkata and Delhi-Chennai;

(c) if so, by when it is expected to be implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. STD calls between MTNL Delhi and MTNL Mumbai networks from landline, Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) (Fixed) and WLL mobile connections are charged at local rates.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) Rates, of call charges are determined by the PSUs keeping in view the profit and its viability *vis-a-vis* private operators.

International Money Order Scheme

1826. SHRI K.P.K. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the countries selected for the service of International Money Order Scheme;

(b) whether the common man especially those living in the rural areas, would be prioritized as the most favoured beneficiary of this service;

(c) whether the time factor would be expedited since 48 to 72 hours in the satellite era of Space Age, is too long; and

(d) whether the charges would be comparably cheaper than the charges collected in the matter of customary International Money Transmission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Decision is yet to be taken as bilateral agreements for introduction of International Electronic Money Order are required to be entered into based on mutual stakes.